Water Quality Technical Report

State Route 1 Roadway Embankment Repair

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State of California
Department of Transportation
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Introduction

1.1 ROUTE DESCRIPTION

State Route 1 (SR-1), commonly known as Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), was added to the State Highway System by the State Highway Board Amendment of 1919. PCH is one of the most unique highways in America, and also one of the longest. PCH starts in the City of San Juan Capistrano, and ends where it merges with Highway 101 at Legget, California.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED OF TECHNICAL REPORT

The objective of the *Water Resources and Water Quality Technical Report* is to describe the existing water resources, to determine if the potential impacts of the project on the water resources would be significant based on preliminary project information, and to identify feasible avoidance or minimization measures to address any potential impacts

1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

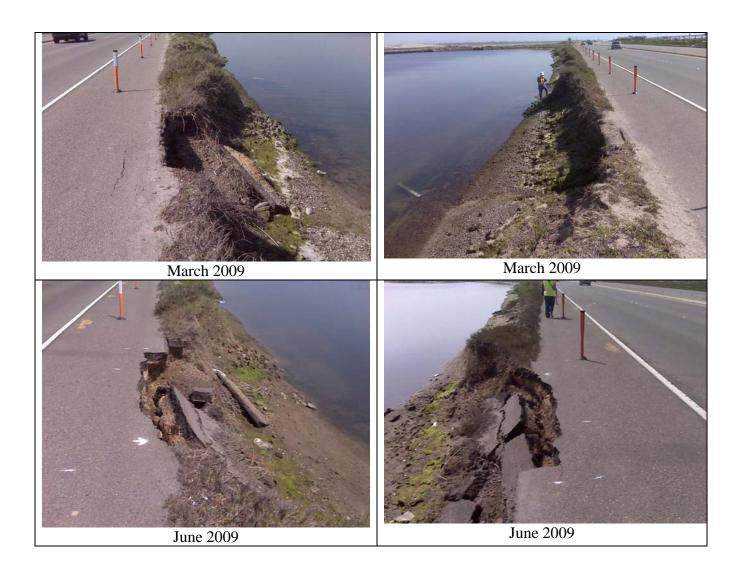
This project proposes to protect the roadway embankments on State Route 1 (PCH) from 0.4 miles south of Warner to 2.0 miles north of Seapoint Avenue in the City of Huntington Beach. The project will restore the partially washed out highway embankment/ shoulder pavement (Figure 1-1) with the installation of a 475 ft metal sheet piling for embankment/ shore protection, 495 ft pedestrian safety cable, and install either a 538 ft Metal Beam Guard Rail (MBGR) or a 550 ft concrete barrier to meet clear recovery zone standards.

Figure 1-1: Photos of project location where embankment has washed out from tidal conditions (photos taken October 2008, March 2009 and June 2009)





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1.3.1 Project Alternatives

Alternative 1

No-Build. This alternative proposes no improvements to restore roadway embankment. This alternative does not address the erosion and degradation of the roadway embankments. By selecting this alternative further erosion of the embankment will jeopardize the integrity of the roadway at this location and might result in partial closure of the northbound lanes of State Route 1. Since this alternative will not enhance the roadway embankment, this alternative will not be considered.

Alternative 2

This alternative will restore the eroded highway embankment, northbound shoulder and protects the highway from future erosion. This alternative will construct 475 ft of steel sheet piles at the highway embankment and install 538 feet (2.4 feet high) of Metal Beam

Guard Rail (MBGR) and 495 feet (3 feet high) of pedestrian safety cable rail along the edge of the sheet pile wall. This alternative will bring the traffic safety to current Department design standards for Clear Recovery Zone requirements. Refer to Appendix A for preliminary cross sections and layout plans for the project.

Alternative 3

This alternative will restore the eroded highway embankment, northbound shoulder and protects the highway from future erosion. This alternative will construct 475 feet of steel sheet piles at the highway embankment and install approximately 550 feet (3 feet high) of concrete barrier (Type 60) and 495 feet (3 feet high) of pedestrian safety cable rail along the edge of the sheet pile wall. A crash cushion is required at the front tip of the barrier. This alternative will bring the traffic safety to current Department design standards for Clear Recovery Zone requirements.

2.0 Affected Environment

2.1 EXISTING WATER RESOURCES

2.1.1 Regional and Local Climate and Precipitation

Orange County's climate is classified as Mediterranean, characterized by cool, dry summers and mild, wet winters. The major contributors to the climate are the Eastern Pacific High and the moderating effects of the Pacific Ocean.

The current rainy season in the project area, as defined by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), is from October 1st through May 1st. However, most rainfall occurs during the winter season, November through March. Rainfall in the project area averages approximately 15 inches (38 centimeters) annually. The peak monthly rainfall in the project vicinity generally occurs between January and February, with an average peak rainfall intensity of approximately 5.5-inches (14 centimeters) in 24 hours.

2.1.2 Surface Water Features

The Westminster Watershed covers approximately 74.1 square miles in the southwestern corner of Orange County. It includes portions of the cities of Anaheim, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Los Alamitos, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, and Westminster. Three main tributaries drain this watershed. The Los Alamitos Channel drains into the San Gabriel River. The Bolsa Chica Channel empties into the Anaheim Bay-Huntington Harbour complex. The East Garden Grove-Wintersburg Channel drains through Bolsa Bay into Huntington Harbour. (OCRDMD 2009).

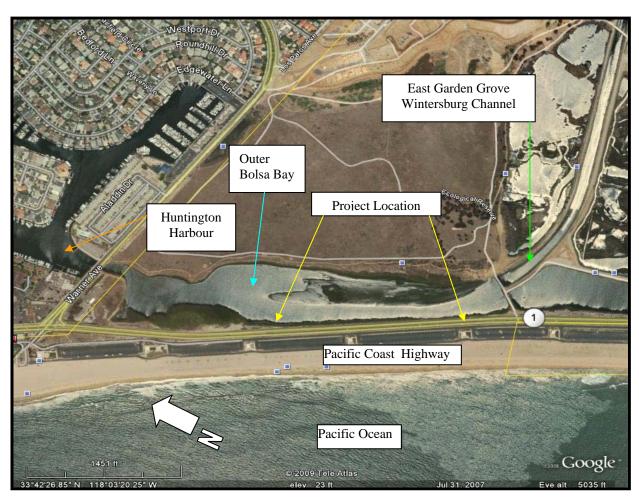
The proposed project is within the location of outer Bolsa Bay (Hydrological Unit 801.11) is composed of residential and commercial development to the north and east of the project location. Outer Bolsa bay is influenced by ocean tidal conditions due to the close proximity of Huntington Harbour, Anaheim Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Runoff

from the upper areas of the Westminster watershed is conveyed via the East Garden Grove-Wintersburg Channel that ultimately discharges to outer Bolsa Bay. A weir with tidal gates has been constructed at the discharge point to outer Bolsa Bay to allow runoff to discharge when larger storm events occur and to prevent tidal flows from entering the East Garden-Grove Wintersburg Channel. Runoff from PCH at the project location discharges via surface drains to outer Bolsa Bay.

The present or potential beneficial uses for Bolsa Bay as identified in the Basin Plan include the following (RWQCB 2008):

- Water Contact Recreation (REC 1)
- Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC 2)
- Commercial and Sport fishing (COMM)
- Wildlife Habitat (WILD)
- Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species (RARE)
- Spawning, Reproduction and Development (SPWN)
- Marine Habitat (MAR)
- Shellfish Harvesting (SHEL)

Figure 2-1



2.2 EXISTING WATER QUALITY

2.2.1 Surface Waters

Outer Bolsa Bay is currently has not been designated by the State Water Resources Control Board as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Although outer Bolsa bay has not been designated as impaired under Section 303 (d) of the CWA, Huntington Harbour and Anaheim Bay which share the same tidal influence with outer Bolsa Bay has been identified in the 2006 CWA 303(d) list of impaired water bodies (US EPA approval 2007). Hunting Harbour has been listed for unknown sources of chlordane, copper and lead while Anaheim Bay is listed for unknown sources of Dieldrin (tissue), nickel, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and sediment toxicity (SWRCB 2007).

Surface water quality within the outer Bolsa Bay is primarily influenced by non-point and point sources of storm water and non-storm water runoff from urban and residential developments (via the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel) and tidal influences from the Pacific Ocean via Anaheim Bay and Huntington Harbour. Contaminants affecting the watershed include various vehicle-related pollutants such as oil, grease, and other petroleum products from roadways. Other pollutants that also affect the watershed include illicit dumping, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers from parks, residential homes, and golf courses. Contaminated runoff from irrigation within the watershed also contributes to the poor surface water quality within the watershed.

2.2.2 Groundwater

Groundwater levels at the project location are relatively high due to the close proximity of outer Bolsa Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Soil borings were conducted in July 2009 at two locations to determine the groundwater levels at the project location. The soil borings concluded that both locations encountered groundwater at 4.5 feet below the roadway surface. This concludes that any excavation below 4.5 feet will encounter groundwater and any groundwater that is extracted and discharged must follow the Santa Ana RWQCBs permit for construction site dewatering discharges as discussed in section 2.3.3 Applicable Permits and 3.2.5 Construction Site Dewatering of this Report

2.2.3 Erosion and Siltation

Outer Bolsa Bay is influenced by both surface runoff from storm events from the Westminster watershed via the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel and rising and falling tides of the Pacific Ocean via Anaheim Bay and Huntington Harbour. The directed flows from the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel at the project location and the daily tides have created channel erosion at the roadway embankment on PCH.

2.3 APPLICABLE REGULATIONS, PLANS, AND POLICIES

2.3.1 Federal

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

The primary federal law governing water quality is the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972. This act provides for the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. The CWA emphasizes technology-based (end-of-pipe) control strategies and requires discharge permits to use public resources for waste discharge. The Act also limits the amount of pollutants that may be discharged and requires wastewater to be treated with the best treatment technology economically achievable regardless of receiving water conditions.

The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act included Section 402(p), which establishes a framework for regulating municipal and industrial storm water discharges. The amendment also provides a framework for regulating storm water runoff from construction sites. On November 16, 1990, the USEPA published final regulations that established requirements for storm water permits.

In 1998, Section 303(d) was amended to the CWA, requiring the state to identify and maintain a list of waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards and also implement a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program for impaired waterbodies.

2.3.2 State

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1969 (Porter-Cologne Act) is the basic water quality control law for California. The Act authorizes the state to implement the provisions of the Clean Water Act. The Porter-Cologne Act establishes a regulatory program to protect the water quality of the state and the beneficial uses of state waters. Under this act, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) provides policy guidance and review for the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs), and the RWQCBs implement and enforce the provisions of the Act.

The establishment of the NPDES regulations in 1987, under Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act, required that the USEPA delegate the responsibility of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program to the State. The SWRCB was given the responsibility to enforce the regulations of the NPDES program and did so in the form of the NPDES Permit for General Construction Activities (Order No. 99-08-DWQ), adopted in 1992 and amended in August of 1999 and 2001. On December 2, 2002, the SWRCB approved the "Modification of Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) NPDES General Permit for Construction Activity (One to Five Acres)". The Permit requires that all owners of land within the State with

construction activities resulting in more than 0.4 hectares (1 acre) of soil disturbance (clearing, grubbing, grading, trenching, stockpile, utility relocation, temporary haul roads, etc.), apply for the General Permit. The purpose of the Permit is to ensure that the land owners:

- 1. Eliminate or reduce non-storm water discharges to storm drains and receiving waters of the U.S.:
- 2. Develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP);
- 3. Inspect the Water Pollution Controls (WPC) specified in the SWPPP; and
- 4. Monitor storm water runoff from construction sites to ensure that the BMPs specified in the SWPPP are effective.

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

The proposed project is located within the jurisdiction of the Santa Ana RWQCB (Region 8). All projects within the Santa Ana Region are subject to the requirements of the Santa Ana RWQCB. The Santa Ana RWQCB has prepared the 1995 Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana Basin (8) to help preserve and enhance water quality and to protect the beneficial uses of state waters. The Basin Plan for the Santa Ana Region is more than just a collection of water quality goals and policies, descriptions of conditions, and discussions of solutions. It is also the basis for the Regional Board's regulatory programs. The Basin Plan establishes water quality standards for all the ground and surface waters of the region. The term "water quality standards," as used in the federal Clean Water Act, includes both the beneficial uses of specific water bodies and the levels of quality which must be met and maintained to protect those uses. The Basin Plan includes an implementation plan describing the actions by the Regional Board and others that are necessary to achieve and maintain the water quality standards. Water quality problems in the region are listed in the Basin Plan, along with the causes, where they are known. For water bodies with quality below the levels necessary to allow all the beneficial uses of the water to be met, plans for improving water quality are included. (SARWQCB, 1995).

California Coastal Commission

This project is within the coastal zone. The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) is the primary federal law enacted to preserve and protect coastal resources. The CZMA sets up a program under which coastal states are encouraged to develop coastal management programs. States with an approved coastal management plan are able to review federal permits and activities to determine if they are consistent with the state's management plan.

California has developed a coastal zone management plan and has enacted its own law, the California Coastal Act of 1976, to protect the coastline. The policies established by the California Coastal Act are similar to those for the CZMA; they include the protection and expansion of public access and recreation, the protection, enhancement and restoration of environmentally sensitive areas, protection of agricultural lands, the

protection of scenic beauty, and the protection of property and life from coastal hazards. The California Coastal Commission is responsible for implementation and oversight under the California Coastal Act.

2.3.3 Applicable Permits

Currently the Department has a statewide NPDES permit that covers all Department properties, facilities and activities. All projects within the Department's jurisdiction must conform to the requirements of the Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Storm Water Discharges From the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Properties, Facilities and Activities (Order No. 99-06-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000003) adopted by the SWRCB on July 15, 1999. This permit allows the Department to operate, maintain, and construct on State right of way without applying for individual General Permits for each construction project. Permit requires the Department to adhere to the provisions of the Statewide General NPDES Permit for Construction Activities, Order No. 99-08-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000002. The Permit also requires that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) be prepared and implemented for all projects greater than 1 acre (0.4 hectares) of soil disturbance in conformance with the General NPDES Permit for Construction Activities. A Notification of Construction (NOC) be filed with the RWQCB at least 30 days prior to any soil-disturbing activities. In addition, all projects are subject to the Best Management Practices (BMPs) specified in the Caltrans Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP).

In addition to the Department's NPDES Storm Water Permit, the project would require a 401 Water Quality Certification from the Santa Ana RWQCB, a 404 Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and a Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission. The Department has obtained blanket coverage under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Surface Waters That Pose an Insignificant (DE MINIMUS) Threat to Water Quality (Order No. R8-2009-003, NPDES No. CAG998001). Additional information regarding dewatering is included in this report in Section 3.2.5, Construction Site Dewatering.

3.0 Environmental Evaluation

3.1 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS AND CRITERIA

The proposed project would be considered to have a significant impact on water resources if it substantially affected the overall amount of runoff, the amount of discharge into natural surface drainages, or the existing pattern of natural surface drainage in the project vicinity. The proposed project would be considered to have a significant impact on water quality if it substantially contributed to the exceedance of any adopted water quality standard or conflicted with the objectives, plans, goals, policies, or implementation of the Santa Ana RWQCB's *Basin Water Quality Control Plan (1995)*.

3.2 POTENTIAL PROJECT IMPACTS

3.2.1 Alternative 1 (No Build)

The No Build Alternative would not result in the construction of a roadway embankment repair. Current tidal and storm flows will continue to erode the roadway embankment which will result in the closure of travel lanes due to safety issues. In addition the eroded embankment (gravel and soil) will fall in the Outer Bolsa Bay causing sediment discharges to the receiving water body.

3.2.2 Alternative 2 ("Build" Alternative/ MBGR)

Runoff and Drainage

The proposed project would not have the potential to significantly alter the existing drainage patterns, erosion and absorption rates, and runoff volume within the project limits. There will be no percent increase in impervious surface from the proposed project location. Based on preliminary design, the project proposes to install 475 ft of metal sheet piling for embankment/ shore protection, 538 ft of Metal Beam Guard Rail (MBGR) and 495 ft of pedestrian cable to meet clear recovery zone standards.

The current runoff and drainage for the northbound lanes of PCH drain to existing overside drains that discharge to Outer Bolsa Bay. The project proposes to stabilize the roadway embankment to prevent further damage to the roadway. There is no increase of impervious surface as well as any improvements to the drainage system at the project location.

Water Quality Degradation

The proposed project is expected to have a less than significant impact on surface water quality if temporary and/or permanent avoidance/minimization measures are incorporated into the project plans. There is no increase in impervious surface as part of the project

thus the roadway runoff will not change but the proposed build alternatives include the repair of the damaged roadway embankment. The repair of installing a metal sheet pile wall will eliminate a source of sediment discharge that was a result of the tidal and storm flows eroding the existing roadway embankment slope.

Temporary impacts as a result of soil disturbing activities will be addressed by the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prepared for the project and the BMPs identified to address these temporary impacts. Construction impacts such as the installation of the metal sheet pile wall adjacent to the Outer Bolsa Bay using a vibration pile driver can cause the re-suspension of sediment located within the bay. Measures such as the installation of a turbidity control curtain to contain any re-suspended sediment from the proposed construction of the sheet pile wall. In addition, the turbidity curtain can also prevent the transport of re-suspended sediment from the construction disturbed soil areas that are inundated as a result of low/high tide influences. The construction of the Metal Beam Guard Rail (MBGR) and the pedestrian safety cable require drilling into the ground to place the support beams/ poles. The depth of the drilling may vary based on the design plans and specifications. The depth of the groundwater is 4.5 feet below the roadway surface and the drilling my encounter the groundwater during construction. This elevation of groundwater may vary due to the close proximity to the Pacific Ocean and Outer Bolsa Bay which have tidal influences to Any construction site dewatering discharges are subject to the Santa Ana consider. RWQCB requirements as discussed in section 2.3.3 Applicable Permits and 3.2.5 Construction Site Dewatering of this Report

Erosion and Sedimentation

The proposed project is located in an area that is relatively flat and the project does not involve grading/regarding slopes. The potential erosion and sediment impacts associated with the project include the re-suspension of sediment during the installation of the metal sheet pile wall and the drilling/excavation of the MBGR foundations. Sediment control measures will be identified in the project's SWPPP to address any erosion and sedimentation issues the project may have during construction. Post construction erosion and sedimentation issues will be resolved with the installation of the metal sheet pile wall. Currently, Outer Bolsa Bay tidal and storm influences are causing erosion of the existing roadway embankment.

3.2.3 Alternative 3 (Concrete Barrier)

As described in Section 1.3.1, Alternative 3 has the same improvements as in Alternative 2 with the exception that a 550 ft concrete barrier will be constructed in place of the 538 ft MBGR that is proposed in Alternative 2. This alternative creates additional temporary impacts due to the preparation and construction of the concrete barrier. The construction of a concrete barrier may require excavation for a foundation that can lead to additional sediment control issues as well as complying with dewatering requirements as discussed in section 3.2.2 in this report. Other temporary impacts that will be addressed in the SWPPP is the control of concrete waste during the construction of the concrete barriers.

Proper concrete washouts will be included as one of the BMPs in the project's SWPPP for waste management control.

3.2.4 Construction Site Dewatering (Alternatives 2 and 3)

Dewatering discharge for Alternatives 2 and 3 could adversely impact surface water quality if the effluent is rich in sediment or contaminated with chemicals. Extracted groundwater may contain pollutants which may be a result of the decomposition of organic materials (e.g., hydrogen sulfide), leaking underground storage tanks and fuel lines, surface spills, sewage, past use of liquid waste impoundments, or the potential presence of nutrients (phosphorous and nitrogen compounds). Due to the close proximity to the Pacific Ocean there is the possibility that groundwater at the project location may contain salt water. It is uncertain if temporary dewatering may occur during the installation of the sheet pile, specifically if temporary coffer dams are needed for construction. If the project requires construction site dewatering, the discharges must be subject to the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for Discharges to Surface Waters that Pose an Insignificant (DE MINIMUS) Threat to Water Quality (Order No. R8-2009-0003, NPDES No. CAG998001). The Department has obtained blanket coverage under this DE MINIMUS permit and must conform to the requirements of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Order No. R8-2009-0003-50, NPDES No. CAG998001). Dewatering BMPs would be used to control sediments and pollutants. An EPA certified laboratory would test and monitor the discharge for compliance with the requirements of the RWQCB. This is also discussed in Section 2.3.3, Applicable Permits.

All effluents from dewatering operations must be tested in an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certified laboratory for trace pollutants and approved by the RWQCB before being discharged into receiving waters. In most dewatering operations, sediment is the primary pollutant of concern. However, the discharges must also be tested for oil and grease, total suspended solids (TSS), total nitrogen (TN), total petroleum hydrocarbons, and sulfides. If the discharge effluent is not visibly clear, then sediment control BMPs such as the Baker Tanks, must be employed to treat the effluent prior to discharge. The specific discharge requirements, limits, and amounts are determined by the permit and may vary for individual projects.

4.0 Recommendations/ Requirements

4.1 Avoidance and Minimization Measures

WQ-1

The project will comply with the provisions of the *Department Statewide NPDES Permit* (Order No. 99-06-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS00003) and the *NPDES General Permit*, *Water Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Discharges of Storm Water Runoff Associated with Construction Activities* (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000002) and any subsequent permit in effect at the time of construction

WQ-2

A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) shall be prepared and implemented to address all construction-related activities, equipment, and materials that have the potential impact water quality. The SWPPP shall identify the sources of pollutants that may affect the quality of storm water and include BMPs to control the pollutants, such as sediment control, catch basin inlet protection, construction materials management and non-storm water BMPs. All construction site BMPs shall follow the latest edition of the *Storm Water Quality Handbooks, Project Planning and Design Guide* (Caltrans, 2007) All work must conform to the Construction Site BMPs requirements specified in the latest edition of the *Storm Water Quality Handbooks, Project Planning and Design Guide* (Caltrans, 2007) to control and minimize the impacts of construction and construction related activities, material and pollutants on the watershed. These include, but are not limited to temporary sediment control, temporary soil stabilization, scheduling, waste management, materials handling, and other non-storm water BMPs.

WQ-3

Design Pollution Prevention Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented such as preservation of existing vegetation, slope/ surface protection systems (permanent soil stabilization), concentrated flow conveyance systems such as ditches, berms, dikes and swales, overside drains, flared end sections, and outlet protection/ velocity dissipation devices.

WO-4

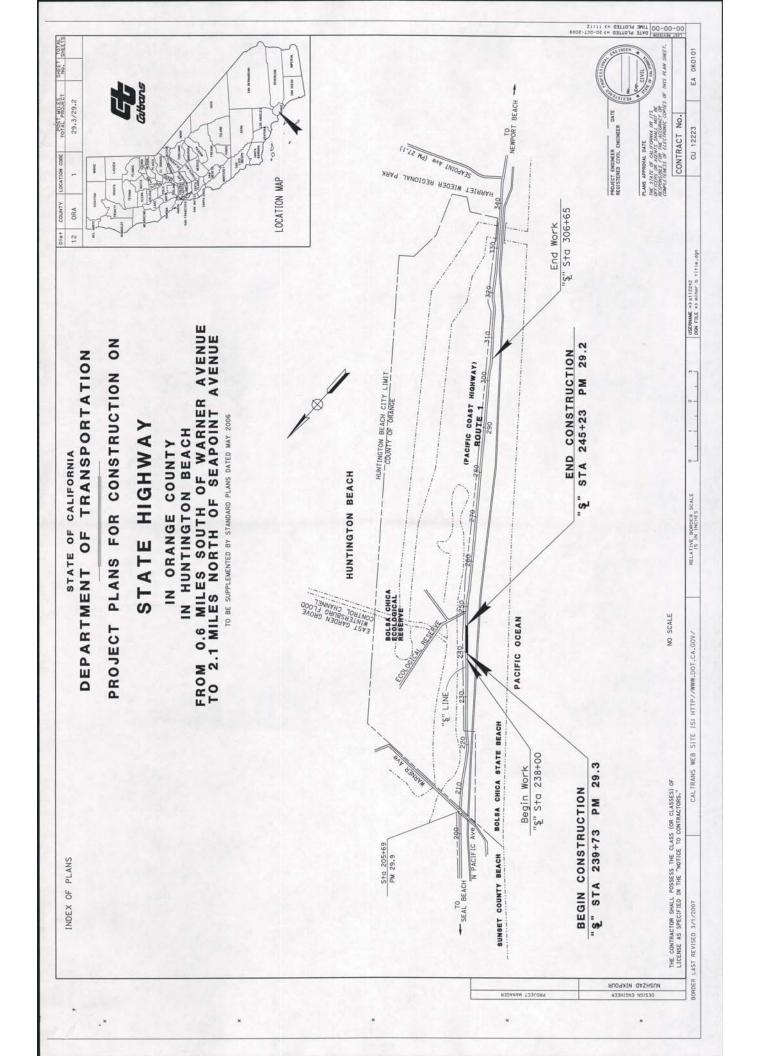
Construction site dewatering must conform to the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Surface Waters That Pose an Insignificant (DE MINIMUS) Threat to Water Quality (Order No. R8-2009-0003, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System No. CAG998001), and any subsequent updates to this permit at the time of construction. Dewatering BMPs must be used to control sediments and pollutants and the discharges must comply with the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) issued by the Santa Ana RWQCB

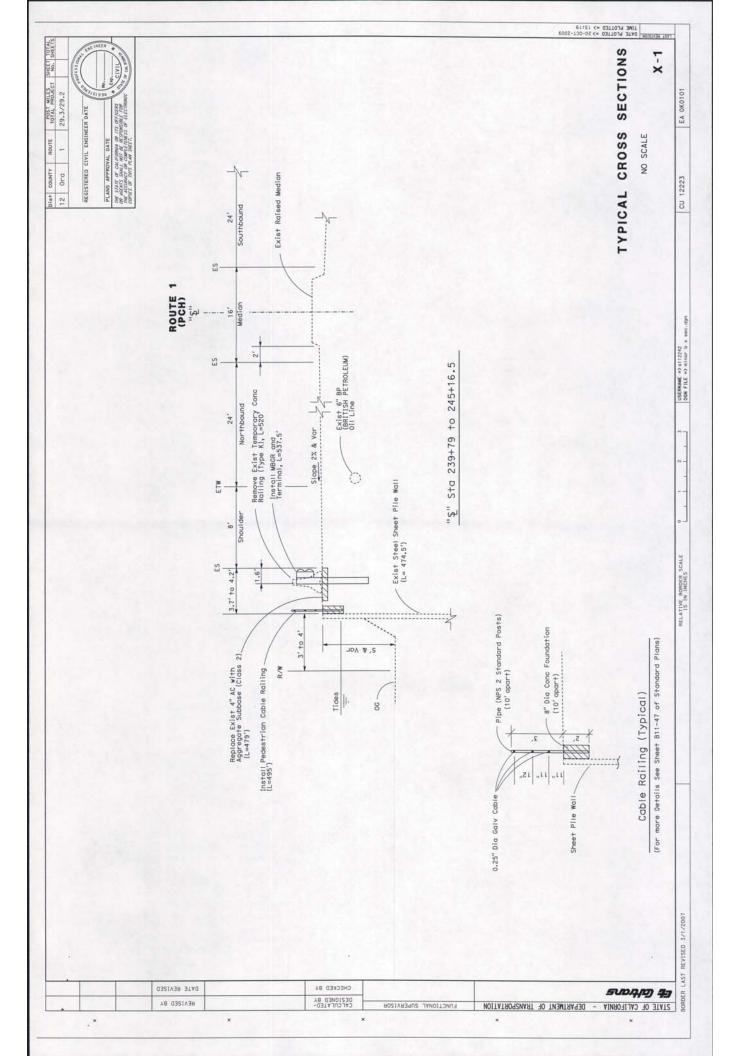
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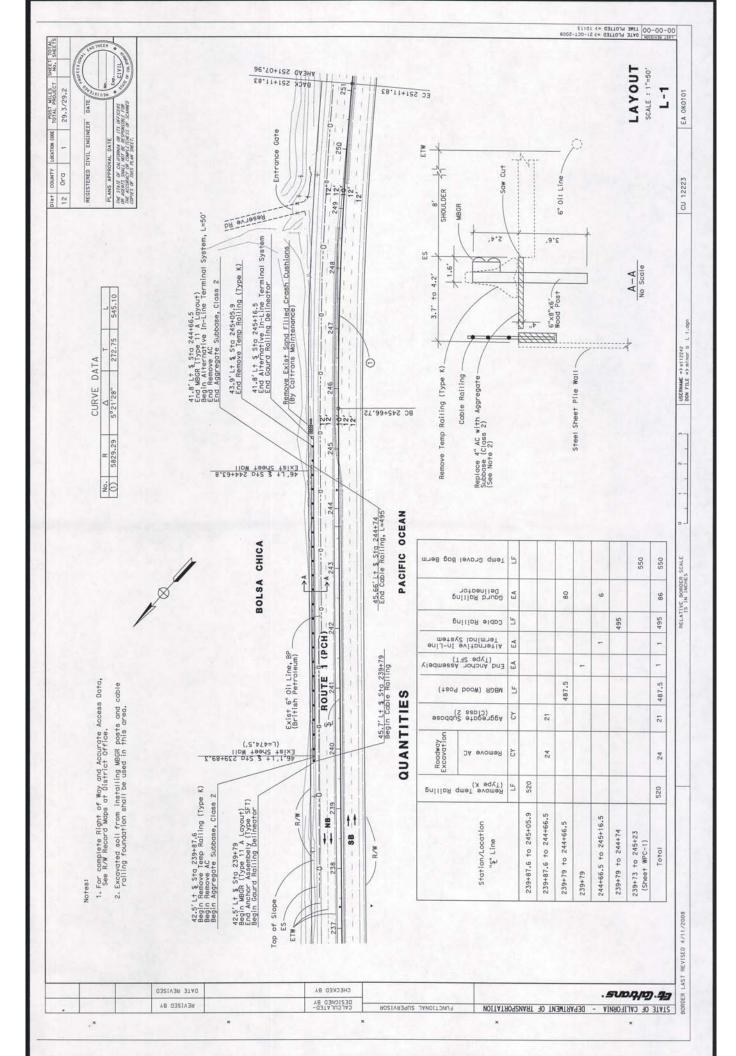
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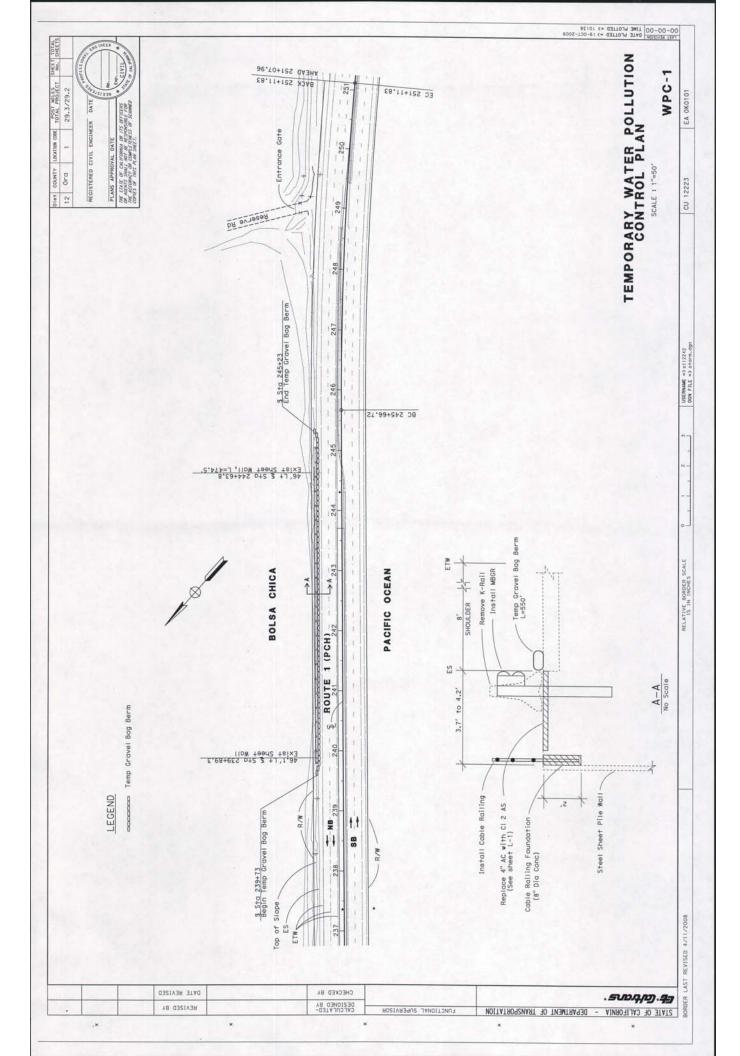
Appendix A

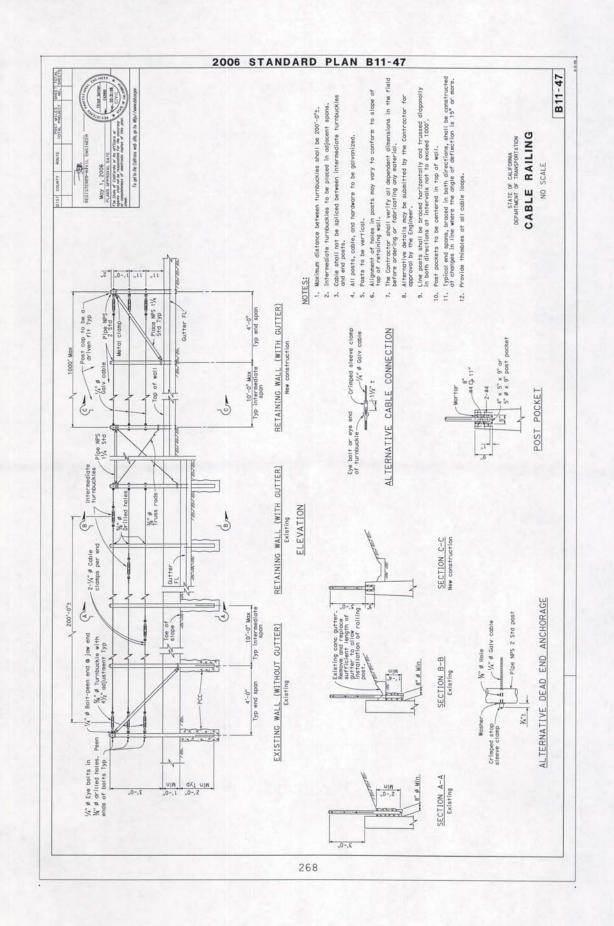
Layout Plans and Cross Sections

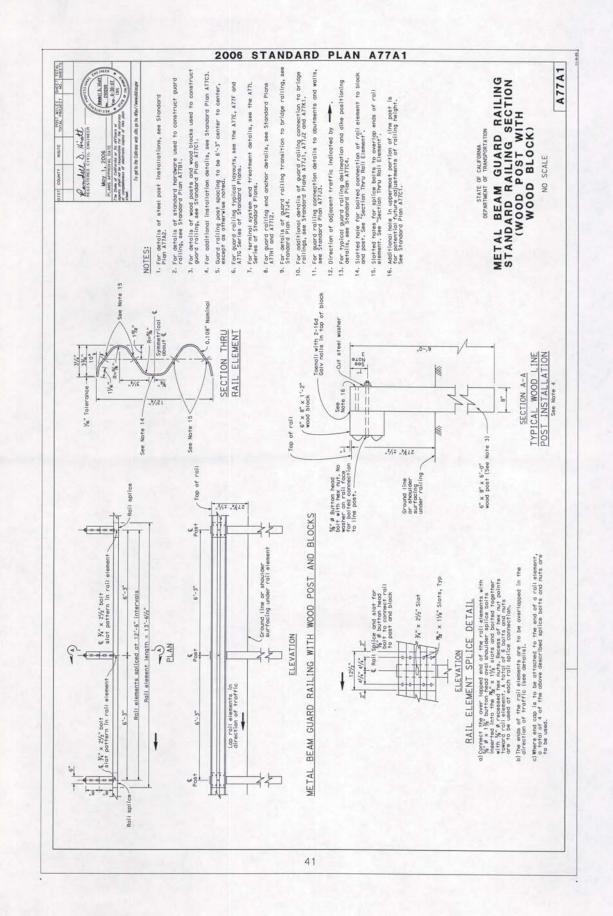


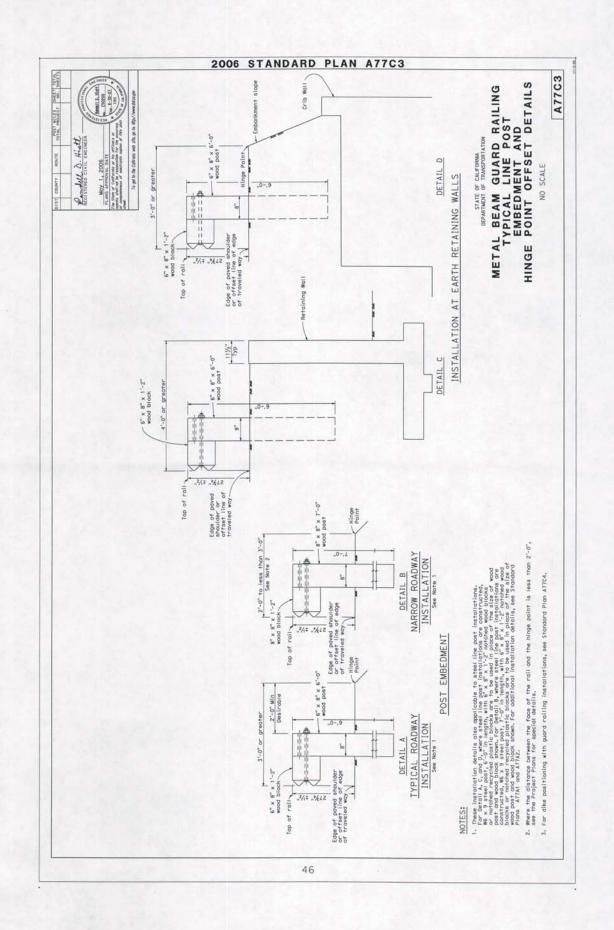


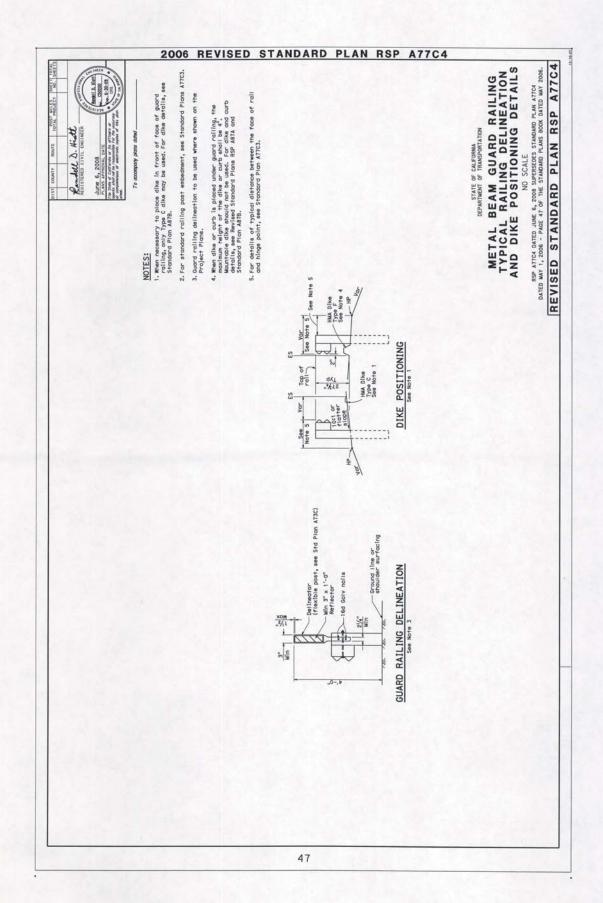


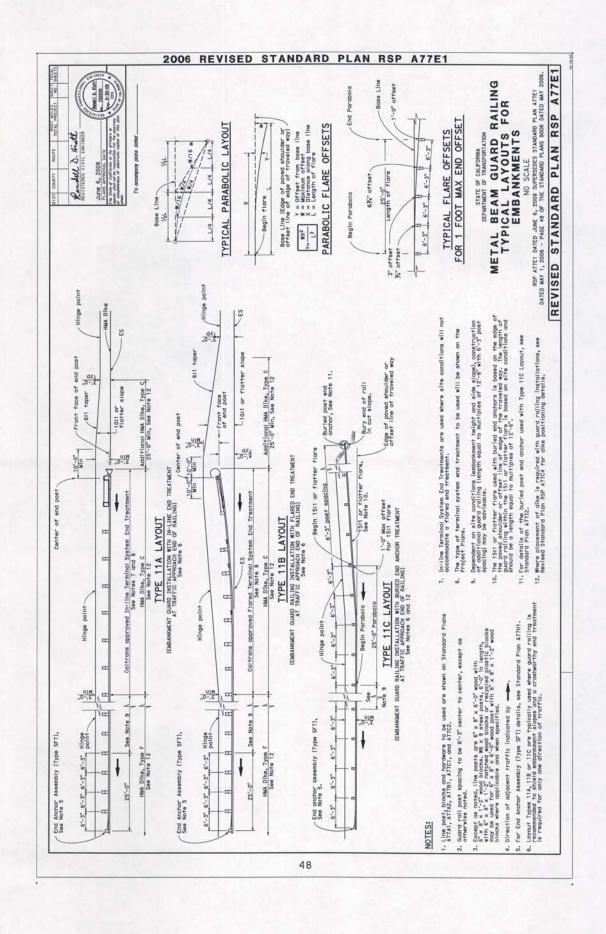


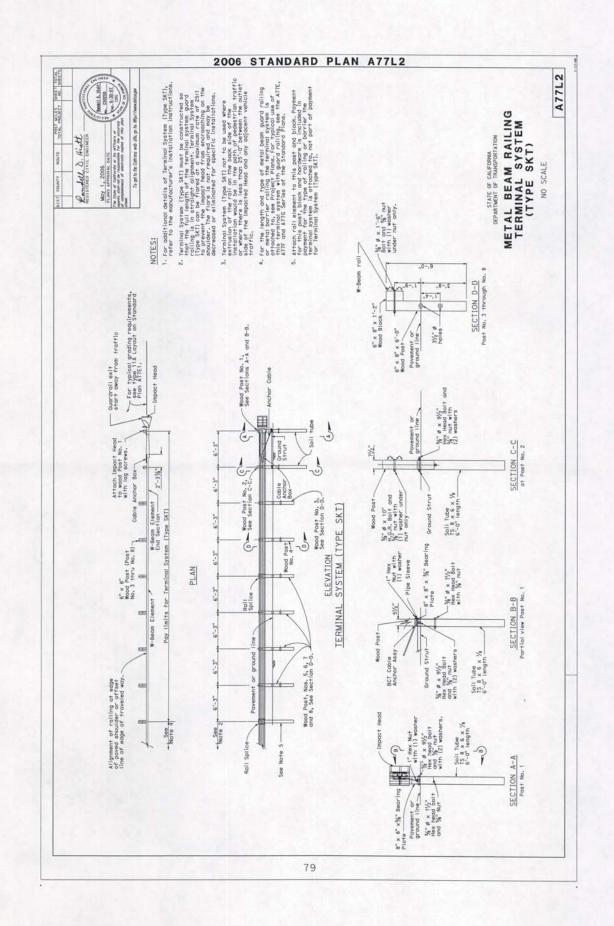


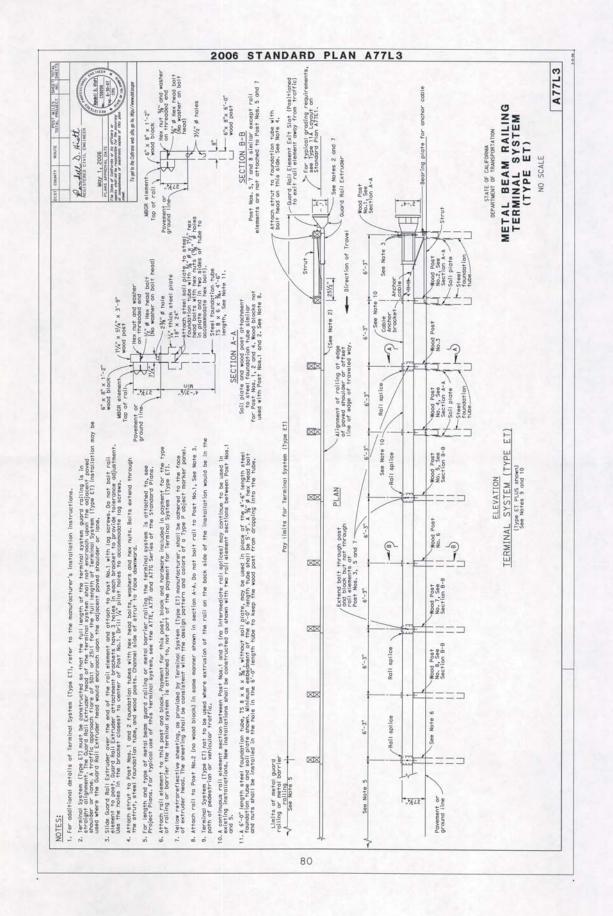












Appendix B Photos of Project Location











October 28, 2008 10:30AM High Tide 9:00AM



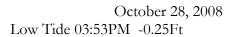
Appendix C Photos of High vs. Low Tide

High Tide 09:53AM 6.0 Ft





High Tide 09:53AM 6.0 Ft







High Tide 09:53AM 6.0 Ft



